

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 /073 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8966

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4302

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MILL, LE, SY

SUBJ: REMARKS OF LOCAL BA'TH PARTY LEADER ASSIM QANSUH

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF ON JULY 29, LOCAL BA'TH

PARTY LEADER ASSIM QANSUH SAID THE FOLLOWING:

2. THE GOL HAS DEFINITELY DECIDED TO SEND SOLDIERS TO SOUTH LEBANON ON JULY 31. THESE UNITS ARE TO OCCUPY LEBANESE ARMY BARRACKS IN TYRE, TIBNIN, MARJAYUN AND NABATIYAH. THE SYRIANS, HOWEVER, BELIEVED THAT THE LEBANESE FRONT WOULD WORK TO PREVENT THE UNITS FROM GOING SOUTH BE INITIATING FIGHTING IN EAST BEIRUT ON JULY 29-30. QANSUH CLAIMED THAT SYRIANS HAD STARTED FIRING IN AYN AR-RUMMANAH EVENING OF JULY 28 FOR THIS REASON.

3. THE MEETING BETWEEN WALID JUMBLATT, SULAYMAN FRANJIYAH AND ABDULLAH SA'DAH IN ZGHORTA ON JULY 15 WAS SUPPOSED TO MARK THE BEGINNING OF A BROAD POLITICAL ALLIANCE FRIENDLY
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TO SYRIAN INTERESTS. SUCH AN ALLIANCE REMAINED PROBLEMATIC, AS LITTLE PROGRESS HAD ACTUALLY BEEN MADE IN CREATING ONE.

4. ONLY ABOUT 300 SYRIAN SECURITY PERSONNEL REMAINED IN WEST BEIRUT: 200 SOLDIERS AND 100 CIVILIANS. THIS WAS NOT ENOUGH TO MAINTAIN SECURITY AND THE LEBANESE ARMY OR POLICE SHOULD DEPLOY UNITS TO DO SO. THE MURABITUN WAS NOT PRE-

PARED TO ACCEPT SUCH UNITS, HOWEVER, BECAUSE THEY WOULD
THREATEN THE MURABITUN'S INFLUENCE.

5. AS A RESULT, QANSUH HAD MET ON JULY 28 WITH LEBANESE
COMMUNIST PARTY HEAD GEORGES HAWI AND COMMUNIST ACTION ORGAN-
IZATION HEAD MUHSIN IBRAHIM TO DISCUSS WAYS OF MAINTAINING
SECURITY IN WEST BEIRUT. ALL THREE HAD AGREED ON THE NEED
TO TRY TO CONVINCE THE MURABITUN TO ACCEPT LEBANESE GOVERN-
MENT SECURITY FORCES. (PPS HEAD ABDULLAH SA'DAH REMARKED
ON JULY 19 THAT HIS ORGANIZATION ALSO OPPOSED USE OF LEBANESE
ARMY IN WEST BEIRUT.) QANSUH ALSO SAID HE WAS READY TO PUT
500 MEMBERS OF THE BA'TH PARTY AT THE DISPOSAL OF GOL TO
HELP WITH SECURITY. PARKER

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